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**SHERIFF AND TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE**  
**PLAQUEMINES PARISH**

8022 HIGHWAY 23  
BELLE CHASSE,  
LOUISIANA 70037

**LONNIE J. GRECO, SR.**  
Sheriff and Ex-Officio  
Tax Collector

504-934-6776

June 7, 2016

Louisiana Board of Ethics  
Post Office Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Re: Request for an advisory opinion concerning the privatization of a position by the  
Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office

To whom it may concern:

As Sheriff-Elect of Plaquemines Parish, I have reviewed several options to reduce the budget of the sheriff's office when I take office on July 1, 2016. One option includes eliminating the full-time position of Legal Counsel and contracting with a private attorney or firm to perform the services previously provided by the Legal Counsel. Under these circumstances, may the attorney whose position is being privatized either associate with a business entity that will contract with the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office (PPSO) or contract individually with PPSO to perform those services? It should be noted, that this option was not suggested by the individual, who would be affected nor will that individual make the decision to privatize the position.

Louisiana 42:1121B(1) provides that no former public employee shall, for a period of two years following the termination of his public employment, assist another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction in which such former public employee participated at any time during his public employment and involving the governmental entity by which he was formerly employed, or for a period of two years following termination of his public employment, render, any service which such former public employee had rendered to the agency during the term of his public employment on a contractual basis, regardless of the parties to the contract, to, for, or on behalf of the agency with which he was formerly employed. Hence, the strict application of the Code of Governmental Ethics' post-employment provisions prohibit a former employee from contracting with PPSO.

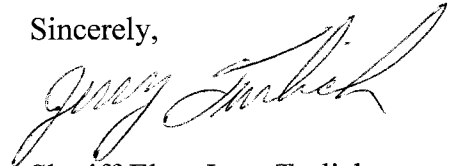
However, I believe that these circumstances are unique and similar to the circumstances previously addressed in Ethics Board Opinions 2010-087 and 2009-934. These opinions recognized that unique circumstances existed when an employee's

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position, through no fault or participation of his own, was privatized. The opinions concluded that due to the unique circumstance of the privatization of a government function, and because the employee affected did not participate in the decision to privatize the government function, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit the employee from contracting with their former public employer to perform their previous services. Therefore, it appears that no violation of the Ethics Code would exist under these circumstances. However, in an abundance of caution, I respectfully request an advisory opinion verifying this conclusion.

I greatly appreciate your assistance and prompt attention in this matter. Please let me know if you need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry Turlich".

Sheriff-Elect Jerry Turlich